Sophia and Her People

00:10SOPHIA STRATENA I used to watch my mother kneading dough. When I was ten, the school... mistress wanted to buy one of mum's loaves and sent me home for it. When my brother was born, mum told me: "Now you make the bread!" So I made the loaves, and I put them... into the oven myself, and I was really happy, because I could make bread on my own.
00:45[sil.]
APRIL, 1983, A SUBURB OF NICOSIA, BUILT FOR REFUGEES FROM THE 1974 WAR
SOPHIA AND HER PEOPLE
EVENTFUL LIVES
01:15[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "Now there has been a war and people separated... ..."
01:25[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "Some are found in the east, some in the west..."
01:40[sil.]
01:45[non-English song]
01:50[sil.]
02:15[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "My God, please, I pray you with all of my heart... ..." "return me to my home, to my orchard, my orange-grove"
02:30[non-English song]
02:40[sil.]
02:45SOPHIA STRATENA Later, when I was married, with small children... ... I wanted a job I could do while at home... ...The answer was to earn my daily wage by making bread... ...So I made a few loaves, and asked a shop to sell them. The man agreed... They sold out, so next time I made a bigger batch... ... and they sold out quickly, too. And so on. Now I had paid work where I had wanted it -- in my own home.
03:20July 1974: President Makarios was ousted by Greek Cypriot dissidents and the army of Greece. Turkey then invaded the north of Cyprus.
180,000 Greek Cypriots left their homes to escape harm. Sophia and her family were among them.
Sophia, separated from her daughters by postwar upheavals, lived here in winter 1975, feeling low.
03:25[sil.]
SOPHIA STRATENA I'd married off my first girl, and was building a home for my second and we would all have lived there... ... The verandah facing the sunshine. I've four daughters, not one by my side now... ... I'm in this dump...
05:00[sil.]
SOPHIA STRATENA Most Worthy God ... let me see that house just once again... ... just once again let me set foot on my daughter's verandah... ... Now I ask you: where am I? Where? In a cave? In a stable? My husband brought me some goats to mind, but I didn't like that. I was weeping from morning till night. I was very low, then... I went to find work, and got a job in a kiosk, selling soft drinks but I didn't like that either So I went to my sister, who had a refugee house with an oven that held 15 loaves I made a basket of rolls which I took to my kiosk to sell I was earning Â£10

a week at the kiosk but that wasn't enough for our needs My basket of rolls sold out in a moment And I took Â£5 from just one basket of rolls... After a few days baking at my sister's I decided to build an oven here in the (refugee) house they had given me We started building the oven, and a man came from Town Planning to knock it down for me "It's not allowed" he said "Knock it down. Knock it down" I got upset and said: "I won't knock it down" "It's the only living for me and mine! I must do this work"
07:00[sil.]
07:05[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "I awake in the morning, make the sign of the Cross"
07:15[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "Imploring my God" "Send me back to my village"
07:35[sil.]
07:40[non-English song]
Sophia was helped by her brother Andreas, who had lived in Nicosia before the war. He helped the family get loans for the machines which raised production from hundreds of loaves a day to thousands. They set up a small company with four partners: Sophia's three married daughters, and Andreas wife.
07:50[sil.]
08:00ANDREAS I need a balance sheet... ....Monday morning....
08:15[sil.]
ANDREAS Call one of those meetings, for me, you know...Get it all ready for me, please, Yannakis It should be Â£5,000 overdraft, and Â£10,000... ... ... Yes,... and Ã Â£10,000 on a loan For loan security we'll use the site where we're building the new bakery I saw that my sister Sophia made delicious rolls and" country" bread One day when my wife and I were visiting, and my nieces were all there, we said out of the blue, "How about us all joining forces in something big?" And from that day the idea took us over. First, we started looking for a bigger oven. My brother-in-law, Sophia's husband said one day "I've found you a bigger oven." We had little money. We put in whatever we could: Â£100 or Â£150 each And we bought it.
09:50[sil.]
Burning olive leaves (blessed by the priest) against misfortune and envy
1973. Before the war, and in their own village.
[sil.]
11:25UNKNOWN Mr. Zenon? We want some flour. Can we have it this afternoon? We haven't enough... How many sacks can you give us? Make it 45, all right ... on the early side ...
11:40NIKOS, SOPHIA'S ELDER SON
11:45NIKOS My responsibilities in the bakery... are not individual -they are the same as everyone else's. That is, on my shift there are four people, but no specialist to give orders or tell someone "Do this" Each one of us knows how the work should be done, the order of tasks. I know that when I've finished mixing, I must start cutting when that is finished, the loaves need patting down, and covering Then I must light the oven, and wait till it's hot... ... then, it's time for loading... ... When that's over, we're not done - the next batch must start I'll start putting flour in the mixer, then, the leaven... ...Yiannis will bring the leaven to the mixer... ... someone

else brings the water, and so on. There's no specialist. We all know the job, and what needs to be done next That's why we get such a good result
13:10[sil.]
Nikos' sisters give a different view of how shift work is organised:
13:25ELENI On every shift there is someone with overall responsibility. We all know the jobs, but one person knows about everything... ... the leaven, the yeast, the garnishes, the oven temperature... ... how many times to light it, if its too hot or too cold I'll say 'better fire it twice this time ... ... or, 'leave the door a bit ajar' or, 'let's wait till it cools...'
13:55UNKNOWN There's someone who knows just a bit better;there's a 'boss' ... Each shift has its 'boss'. We all know the work, but there is a boss...
14:10FILMMAKER Film-maker: "Which of you takes this position?"
14:15UNKNOWN "Eleni and I, usually. Our husbands could, but they are on deliveries, so we women manage the bakery itself."
14:25FILM-MAKER Film-maker: "Sophia, do you sometimes lead a shift?"
14:30SOPHIA STRATENA "They've put me on the scrap-heap recently."
UNKNOWN "Sophia has other responsibilities! She makes the leaven - that's very skilled so that the new shift can start.She's the one who knows, so she must do it."
14:45UNKNOWN Rolls? Not now. Just loaves... ... This afternoon... I'll put some in the first batch, for 3.30 or 3.45...If you like I'll do then for you OK? OK. I'll tell Nikos, and Savvas can drop them off to you. Want some hot bread?
15:20[sil.]
15:50FILMMAKER Sophia, what time did you start work today?
15:55SOPHIA STRATENA Today? Last night I was minding my daughter Eleni's child today I took it to the nursery at 7. a.m. and came on to work here
16:05FILMMAKER When will you stop work?
SOPHIA STRATENA At 2 p.m. I'll take over Marculla's children, so she can come to work
16:15[sil.]
16:20FILMMAKER Eleni, what time did you start today?
16:25ELENI Two a.m.
FILMMAKER When will you stop?
ELENI One p.m.
16:30FILMMAKER What will you do then?
ELENI I'll go home, get my kid from nursery, go home and we'll eat. Then we'll go to bed and sleep till midnight. Then it's work again.
16:45[non-English narration]
UNKNOWN It's the night-shift which tires us. It's the hardest part of the job but when you get used to it... it's easy, and even enjoyable. I like it, personally.
17:15[non-English narration]
17:25ELENI I'm giving them artichokes with steak... ... By the time we get home, it will be mid-day... I'll pick up my kid give him a bath and we'll eat about 1.00 ...then it will be time for a bit of rest... ... Maybe if there's time later, we could go shopping. I want to get some summer things - shorts for my kid and we could have a stroll, till evening. If there's enough time. We got here quickly today. Midnight or 1 a.m., tonight?

18:20UNKNOWN Midnight - it's Friday tomorrow and we'll have a lot of work on. Take your things from the boot.
18:35[sil.]
18:40UNKNOWN Leave me half a loaf - I didn't take any.
ELENI I'll leave it all for you.
18:45UNKNOWN All right.
18:50[sil.]
ELENI Sometimes we have real difficulties when the work piles up... ... If my child is sick, I need replacing on shift, while I care for him... ... The same thing can happen to any of us. If my husband is sick someone must do his deliveries.There are difficulties constantly
19:15[non-English narration]
19:20[sil.]
19:35[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "Oh, how I long to be back home and sit on the verandah..."
19:45[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "and for my daughters to be there like they always were before"
20:05[non-English song]
20:15[sil.]
NIKOS Unfortunately, I lived only sixteen years in my village, but I really feel for it - it lives on in my heart. I cannot forget it.
20:55[sil.]
To cope with problems of shift-work and child-care, Phrossou and Antonis sometimes leave their son for a day or two with Antonis' mother, outside the city.
22:10[non-English narration]
23:25[sil.]
23:35[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "As night-time comes, my eyes begin to fill with tears... ..."
23:45[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATEN "For my children have departed so very far away."
24:00[non-English song]
24:10[sil.]
SOPHIA STRATENA Stand still, you blessed thing.
24:40[sil.]
24:50ANDREAS Sometimes, there are tensions between us - but they don't last long... You see, we're a united family - if someone gets tired and cross half an hour later he's over it. That's the unavoidable, in any job. But tensions which would make us split are most unlikely - touch wood.
25:15[sil.]
25:25FILM-MAKER Filmmaker: "Give us the song about Nikos"
SOPHIA STRATENA Sophia: "Song??"
XENIA Her daughter Xenia: "Now? You remember it mum?"
25:35SOPHIA STRATENA Sophia: "I remember it... but is it suitable?"
FILMMAKER Filmmaker: "I think so"
XENIA Xenia: ""We'll agree then. But is this the right time?"
25:15FILMMAKER Filmmaker: "Definitely... ..."

XENIA Xenia: "So let him hear it then!"
25:45[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "He sent me a letter, yes, in an envelope so fine." "My sons-in-law all by my side Nikos, my son, away.
26:05[non-English song]
26:15SOPHIA STRATENA "I even call him on the phone to get him to respond" "He answered: to the bakery I can no more return." "I said to him 'Good day to you my child. How fare you know?'" "He said to me 'Goodbye to you Pray do notspeak to me."
26:50NIKOS As I recall, the reason I left the job as I told you at thestart of our interview was the working hours I was the first of us to say that the shifts should be rotated, so that if I had been working from 2 p.m. till 11 p.m., Next week I should work from 2 a.m. till 11 a.m. so I could sleep, then have my afternoon free to go out, to move freely, and not be bound to the bakery's times. If shifts are rotated, we shall all be liberated. I couldn't persuade the others, so I went on my own personal strike.
27:45[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "Even to his house I made my way the better to implore him" "Said he: to yonder bakery Return? It cannot be!"
28:00FILMMAKER Filmmaker: What was the outcome?
NIKOS The outcome? (I returned) but things did not change.When we discussed it all again we agreed to wait a bit... ...to arrange things better, to organise ourselves better and when we move to the new bakery we're building, it will be different we shall move freely, and not be so tied to the bakery's times.
28:30[sil.]
28:35[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "Take me to my village, to my village"
28:45[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "To my own home,"
28:55[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "the one that I grew up in"
29:05[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "For my heart is sore so very sore"
29:15[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "Turks occupied my village"
29:30[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "and now my life is bitterness"
29:45[non-English song]
30:05[non-English narration]
30:10[sil.]
31:20SOPHIA STRATENA "When I remember Argaki, my village I feel homesick... a longing for my own home. Whatever you offer me, I would not exchange my village, my home, for anything.
31:35[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "All-Holy Mother, with your hand
31:40[non-English song]

SOPHIA STRATENA send them away to banishment"
31:50[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "My villlge is Argaki
32:00[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA and I am filled with bitterness"
32:15[non-English song]
32:25[sil.]
Sophia's children have now built a new bakery on this site, and business is good.
33:10[non-English song]
SOPHIA STRATENA "I have five little grandchildren"
33:15[non-English song]
33:20SOPHIA STRATENA "They are like little angels"
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